
OWASSO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Founded 1979

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010

2009-2011 Officers

President

Ralph Cunningham

Vice President

Betty Morton

Secretary

Kaye Gibson

Treasurer

John Mowery

Membership

Kathryn Tumleson

Historian

Kaye Gibson

Directors

Marcia Boutwell

Shirlene Kerr

Ken McSlarrow

Julia M. Stokes

Jerry Whited

Vacancy - 1

Museum Hours

Tuesday – Friday
Noon – 4:00 pm

Saturday

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Other times by

Appointment

918-272-4966

ANNUAL MEETING – The Annual Meeting, which was scheduled for March 20th, had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Since this was not an election year for Board Members and there was no business other than routine to be considered, there are no plans to reschedule the meeting.

The Board is considering some amendments to the By Laws and will act on the proposed amendments at a Board Meeting within the next few months. Copies of the proposed amendments will be mailed to all members prior to taking any action, and time will be allowed to receive comments. Most of the amendments are housekeeping items. The only significant proposed change relates to payment of annual dues, & it will affect only new members and those who have joined recently. In the current By Laws, it is stated that all annual dues come due on March 23rd of each year. Because people join the Historical Society throughout the year, the proposed amendment will provide for annual dues to be paid each year on the month & day in which membership began.

OWASSO IN THE 1950s & 60s – The March 23, 2010 issue of *The Owasso Reporter* features stories about the 1950s & 60s in Owasso as related by residents & research done by *Reporter* staff. A map of Main Street from 76th north to 2nd Street, listing businesses of that era, is also included. If you have not seen the newspaper, you might want to get a copy and read about Owasso 50-60 years ago.

BOARD MEETINGS – The Historical Society Board of Directors meets at the museum on the third Monday of each month at 4:00 p.m., except May and December.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS – The Historical Society's only fundraiser – creating sprays and wreaths for Memorial Day – will begin April 19th and continue until Memorial Day. If you think you might like to try your hand at this project, just drop by the museum – we welcome anyone who would like to help. We will work on the project Monday through Saturday of each week, but volunteers set their own times and can work as much or as little as they like. Funds raised through the project support the annual scholarship, as well as the purchase of items for the museum and incidental society expenses.



T J'S SHOE SHOP – In our newsletter of October 2005, we featured a photo of the outside of T J's Shoe Shop located on the south side of Broadway just west of Main. We have recently received a photo taken inside the shop in early 1929. It shows Tom & Maude Johnson and their only child, Gene. The photo was sent to us by Tom & Maude's grandson, Jim Johnson.

If you have photos of early Owasso that you would share, they can be emailed to mboutwell@cityofowasso.com or you can bring them in and we can scan them. We appreciate all photos that we get.

VISITORS, TOURS & PRESENTATIONS –

During January, February & March, visitors to the museum have come from the states of Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Texas, & Wyoming; and Bixby, Collinsville, Eli, Inola, Kiefer, Miami, Owasso, Sapulpa, Talala, Tulsa, & Vera in Oklahoma.

On February 23rd, Eta Mu philanthropic organization held their meeting at the museum and staff presented a PowerPoint program on Owasso history. Tiger Cubs from Den 12 Pack 897 toured on March 4th, with Kaye Gibson & Joan Stuckey serving as tour guides. Staff spent the day on March 22nd at the 7th Grade Center, with PowerPoint presentations on Owasso history being given. Staff & volunteers are available for guided tours and to make presentations. Just call the museum to set up a time.

SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED –

Seniors graduating from Owasso high schools this spring are submitting applications for the two Historical Society scholarships to be awarded for the 2010-2011 academic year. Applications are due April 7th, and will be judged by a committee of Historical Society members. Information about the recipients will be in the July newsletter.

FROM THE SCRAPBOOKS –

In the 1940s & 50s--
---The City Limit sign was on the east side of the railroad track, & it read OWASSO Pop. 400.

---There were two grocery stores, Finch's and Komma's.

---The Telephone Office was one room, with a switchboard and one booth. A caller would give the number to Mrs. Martin, and if they didn't know the number, they'd just give the name.

---Movies were shown at the Odd Fellows Lodge Hall. In the summer they would be shown out on the lawn. A white bed sheet, hung on the outside of the building would serve as the movie screen.

---Mounger's Hardware store stood on the northwest corner of Main & Broadway, where on a nice day, there would be a group of old men, sitting and swapping yarns, and discussing the weather and watching the people pass by, while waiting for the mail to be put up.

---Had no football team, but had a fine basketball team, and a very fine band.

MUSEUM VISITS – Historical Society members are visiting other area museums to learn how they operate and to get ideas for displays, etc. In October nine members toured the Nowata County museum and visited with their volunteers.



Pictured are Ralph Cunningham, Jerry Whited, Marcia Boutwell, Kathryn Tumleson, Joan Stuckey, Kaye Gibson, & Shirlene Kerr. Not pictured: Ina Boyington & Orval Trapp.

NECOMA – The Northeast Central Oklahoma Museums Association Spring Meeting will be held at the Bartlesville Area History Museum on Monday, April 26, 2010.

9:30-10:30 – Welcome, Refreshments, Self-Guided Museum Tour

10:30- 11:45 – Meeting in the Pioneer Gallery

11:45-12:00 – Break

12:00 Noon – Depart for Lunch at Conoco Phillips

12:00-2:00 – Lunch with guest speaker Julie Daniels.

Julie will speak about the Discovery 1 Park and the historic Santa Fe 940 engine.

Lunch is \$10.00 per person

Following lunch, there will be a tour of the Santa Fe 940 at the Chamber of Commerce.

2:00 – Optional tours of Bartlesville

Call Marcia at the museum (272-4966) if you would like to attend. We must RSVP no later than April 20th & everyone who drives will need a parking pass. We will carpool from the museum.

SOME HISTORY OF OUR TOWN – ‘Owasso to Tulsa. First free mail route in the Indian Nation, from headlines in The Tulsa Democrat newspaper, 22 March 1901.’ “A mail route from Owasso to Tulsa via Turley has been granted.”

“Every farmer living along the road or near can have his mail brought to him every day, except Sunday, by providing a small box as a receptacle for it.”

The successful bidder will be required to give a bond of \$1000.00.

A report in the 12 April 1901 paper notes that the contract has been let to Mr. N.R. Calhoun for \$500.00 a year.

An article in the 7 June 1901 issue states that J.T. Barnes has bought the Star route from N.R. Calhounj, the original contractor.

An advertisement in the same paper dated 28 June 1901: “Owasso – Tulsa Mail and Stage Line. Leave Owasso 7 A.M. Arrive at Tulsa via Turley by 12 n. Leave Tulsa 2 P.M. Arrive Owasso 7: P.M.

J.T. Barnes, operator”

With the completion of the railroad to Tulsa in May of 1905, the route would probably have been discontinued or drastically changed.

--contributed by Orval Trapp

BUILDINGS OF THE PAST



Red Brick School Building

From 1900 to 1910, all Owasso students attended the first school building constructed in Owasso. It was located on what is now the north parking lot at Owasso City Hall.

In 1910 the students moved into a newly-constructed buff brick building, located to the east of where the old Barnes building is located. Grades 1-12 attended the three-story building.

The two story red brick building (pictured above) was constructed in 1924 just to the south and west of the buff building. Grades 7-12 attended classes in the new building, while grades 1-6 remained in the buff building.

In 1924 the red brick building was the pride of Owasso. The building faced north, with all of the classrooms on the north side. A gymnasium was located on the lower level on the south side of the building, with the gym floor built below the ground level. There were bleachers for seating at the sides, and showers and dressing rooms at each end. The auditorium was on the second floor above the gym. It had a balcony, a large stage, & dressing rooms on each side. The stage curtain rolled up and down, and featured local business advertising surrounding the “end of the trail” logo. A library was also located on the second floor. It was well stocked with books, and was referred to by the students as the study hall.

The school’s curriculum featured a well equipped science department, and commercial study rooms featuring typewriters and other equipment for that time to prepare students for employment. Courses in shorthand and bookkeeping were offered and taught by highly qualified teachers.

The building was destroyed by an unexplained fire in February 1945.

Coming Events

April 19 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

April 19–May 31 – Memorial Flower Project

April 26 – NECOMA Meeting

Bartlesville Area History Museum

9:30-10:30 – Welcome, Refreshments,
& Self-Guided Tour

10:30 – Meeting Begins

No Board Meeting in May

June 21 @4:00 p.m. – Board Meeting

July Newsletter

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Owasso Historical Society

Date _____

Name _____

Business/Organization (if applicable) _____

Address _____ Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New _____ Renewal _____

MEMBERSHIP FEES

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|-----------------------------|-------|
| • Individual Annual Membership | \$5 | • Student Annual Membership | \$1 |
| • Family Annual Membership | \$10 | • Life Membership | \$100 |
| • Business Annual Membership | \$25 | • Business Life Membership | \$250 |

Make checks payable to Owasso Historical Society

Please complete the above form and mail with your membership fee to:
Owasso Historical Society, PO Box 1481, Owasso, OK 74055

Owasso Historical Society
PO Box 1481
Owasso, OK 74055